



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,458	04/03/2001	Venkata Katikaneni	F-113	8314
919	7590	04/07/2006	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			WU, RUTAO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/973,458	KATIKANENI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rutao Wu	3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/09/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 13-15, 21, 25-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat No. 6,982,808 to Ogg et al.

Referring to claim 13:

A postage printing system, comprising:

A registration wall; (Fig 12)

A transport device for feeding an envelope having plurality of lateral edges in a path of travel through the postage printing system where one of the plurality of lateral edges is aligned with the registration wall; (Fig 12; col 10: lines 31-35; col 13: lines 24-26)

A printer capable of printing a postal indicia and an ad slogan on the envelope, the printer being located in proximity to the path of travel so as to define a print position; (Fig 3; col 6: lines 42-45)

A control system in operative communication with the transport device and the printer, the control system for:

Obtaining an indication from an operator of a selected print location for the ad slogan; and (Fig 7; col 8: lines 42-45)

Determining if the postal indicia and the ad slogan may be printed in a single pass of the envelope through the print position of the postage printing system. (col 19: lines 17-26)

Referring to claim 14:

The postage printing system of claim 13, wherein:

If the control system determines that the postal indicia and the ad slogan cannot be printed in a single pass through the postage printing system, then the postal indicia is printed in one pass through the postage printing system and the ad slogan is printed in another pass through the postage printing system. (col 19: lines 23-45)

Referring to claim 15:

The postage printing system of claim 14, wherein:

Before the another pass through the postage printing system, the control system provides the operator with an indication of an anticipated orientation of feeding the envelope through the postage printing system based upon the selected print location. (Fig 23, 24; col 19: lines 35-45)

Referring to claim 21:

A postage printing system, comprising:

A registration wall; (Fig 12)

A transport device for feeding an envelop having a plurality of lateral edges in a path of travel through the postage printing system where one of the plurality of lateral edges is aligned with the registration wall; (Fig 12; col 10: lines 31-35; col 13: lines 24-26)

A printer capable of printing a postal indicia and an ad slogan on the envelope, the printer being located in proximity to the path of travel so as to define a print position; (Fig 3; col 6: lines 42-45)

A control system in operative communication with the transport device and the printer, the control system for:

Causing the postal indicia to be printed in one pass through the postage printing system and the ad slogan to be printed in another pass through the postage printing system; and (col 19: lines 23-45)

Before the another pass through the postage printing system, providing the operator with an indication of an anticipated orientation of feeding the envelope through the postage printing system based upon a selected print location. (Fig 23, 24; col 19: lines 35-45)

Referring to claim 25:

A method of operating a postage printing system, the method comprising:

Feeding an envelope having a plurality of lateral edges in a path of travel through the postage printing system and along a registration wall where on of the plurality of lateral edges is aligned with the registration wall; (Fig 12; col 10: lines 31-35; col 13: lines 24-26)

Defining a print position where a postal indicia and an ad slogan may be printed on the envelope; (Fig 14A-B; col 14: lines 31-55; col 15: lines 47-54;)

Obtaining an indication from an operator of a selected print location for the ad slogan; and (Fig 7; col 8: lines 42-45)

Determining if the postal indicia and the ad slogan may be printed in a single pass through the print position of the postage printing system. (col 19: lines 23-45)

Referring to claim 26:

The method of claim 25, wherein:

If the postal indicia and the ad slogan cannot be printed in a single pass through the postage printing system, then the postal indicia is printed in one pass through the postage printing system and the ad slogan is printed in another pass through the postage printing system. (col 19: lines 27-45)

Referring to claim 27:

The method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:

Before the another pass through the postage printing system, providing the operator with an indication of an anticipated orientation of feeding the envelope through the postage printing system based upon the selected print location. (Fig 23, 24; col 19: lines 35-45)

Referring to claim 28:

The method of claim 27, further comprising the step(s) of:

Detecting a distinguishing characteristic of the envelope; and (col 19: lines 30-33)

During the another pass:

Determining a feed orientation of the envelope based on detecting the distinguishing characteristic; (col 19: lines 40-45)

Comparing the fed orientation with the anticipated orientation; and (col 19: lines 4-16)

Bypassing printing of the ad slogan if the fed orientation and the anticipated orientation do not correspond. (col 15: lines 55-58)

Referring to claim 29:

The method of claim 28, wherein:

The one pass occurs prior to the another pass; and (col 19: lines 27-30)

The distinguishing characteristic of the envelope is the postal indicia. (col 19: lines 17-22)

Referring to claim 30:

The method of claim 29, wherein:

The postal indicia is printed along a top edge of the envelope; and (Fig 1, Fig 8)

Further comprising the step(s) of:

If the selected print location is along a bottom edge of the envelop, printing the ad slogan upside down so that the postal indicia and the ad slogan both read right side up when the envelope is viewed properly. (col 15: lines 37-40, 47-54)

Referring to claim 31:

The method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:

Detecting a distinguishing characteristic of the envelope; and (col 19: lines 30-33)

During the another pass:

Determining a feed orientation of the envelope based on detecting the distinguishing characteristic; (col 19: lines 40-45)

Comparing the fed orientation with the anticipated orientation; and (col 19: lines 4-16)

Bypassing printing of the ad slogan if the fed orientation and the anticipated orientation do not correspond. (col 15: lines 55-58)

Referring to claim 32:

The method of claim 31, wherein:

The one pass occurs prior to the another pass; and (col 19: lines 27-30)

The distinguishing characteristic of the envelope is the postal indicia. (col 19: lines 17-22)

Referring to claim 33:

The method of claim 29, wherein:

The postal indicia is printed along a top edge of the envelope; and (Fig 1, Fig 8)

Further comprising the step(s) of:

If the selected print location is along a bottom edge of the envelop, printing the ad slogan upside down so that the postal indicia and the ad slogan both read right side up when the envelope is viewed properly. (col 15: lines 37-40, 47-54)

Referring to claim 34:

A method of operating a postage printing system, the method comprising the step(s) of:

Feeding an envelope having a plurality of lateral edges in a path of travel through the postage printing system and along a registration wall where one of the plurality of lateral edges is aligned with the registration wall; (Fig 12; col 10: lines 31-35; col 13: lines 24-26)

Defining a print position where a postal indicia and an ad slogan may be printed on the envelope; (Fig 14A-B; col 14: lines 31-55; col 15: lines 47-54;)

Causing the postal indicia to be printed in one pass through the postage printing system and the ad slogan to be printed in another pass through the postage printing system; and (col 19: lines 23-45)

Before the another pass through the postage printing system, providing the operator with an indication of an anticipated orientation of feeding the envelope through the postage printing system based upon a selected print location. (Fig 23, 24; col 19: lines 35-45)

Referring to claim 35:

The method of claim 34, further comprising the step(s) of:

Detecting a distinguishing characteristic of the envelope; and (col 19: lines 30-33)

During the another pass:

Determining a feed orientation of the envelope based on detecting the distinguishing characteristic; (col 19: lines 40-45)

Comparing the fed orientation with the anticipated orientation; and (col 19: lines 4-16)

Bypassing printing of the ad slogan if the fed orientation and the anticipated orientation do not correspond. (col 15: lines 55-58)

Referring to claim 36:

The method of claim 35, wherein:

The one pass occurs prior to the another pass; and (col 19: lines 27-30)

The distinguishing characteristic of the envelope is the postal indicia. (col 19: lines 17-22)

Referring to claim 37:

The method of claim 36,

Further comprising the step(s) of:

If the selected print location is along a bottom edge of the envelop, printing the ad slogan upside down so that the postal indicia and the ad slogan both read right side up when the envelope is viewed properly. (col 15: lines 37-40, 47-54)

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 16-20, 22-24 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is U.S. Pat No. 6,982,808 to Ogg et al.

Ogg et al disclose a postage and ad printing system where depending on the margin requirements and the placement of the postage indicia the system is capable of printing an ad slogan on an envelope with the postage indicia.

As per claim 16 and 22, the closest prior art of record fails to teach or suggest using a scanner to detect distinguishing characteristic of the envelope to decide an orientation of the envelope for printing an ad slogan. Claims 17-20 depends on claim 16 and claims 23-24 depend on claim 22, thus are allowable for the same reason.

Conclusion

5. Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat No. 6,173,274 to Ryan, Jr.

U.S. Pat No. 6,141,654 to Heiden et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,234,694 to Brookner.

U.S. Pat No. 6,698,953 to Hertlein.

U.S. Pat No. 5,978,781 to Sansone.

U.S. Pat No. 5,707,158 to Hansel et al.

U.S. Pat No. 5,168,804 to Lee et al.

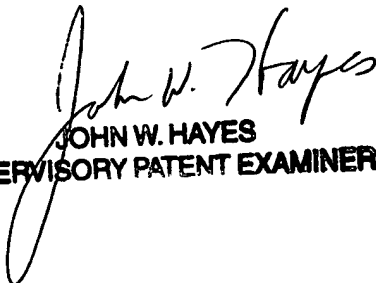
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rutao Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3136.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

rw


JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER